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CENTRAL FAX CENTERAmendments to the Claims

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A culture medium consisting essentially of:

- i. monobasic potassium phosphate;
- ii. ammonium chloride;
- iii. heptahydrate magnesium sulfate;
- iv. D(+) saccharose; and
- v. water; and

optionally includes acid and/or base for pH adjustment.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The culture medium of claim 1, wherein the pH of the culture medium is between 4.5 and 5.5.

5. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing the culture medium of claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. obtaining a solution by dissolving in ultra pure water, under agitation, the monobasic potassium phosphate, the ammonium chloride, the heptahydrate magnesium sulfate and the saccharose;
- b. adjusting the pH of the solution obtained in step a. to 5.0, and
- c. sterilizing the solution and conserving the solution at a temperature of 4°C.

6-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein the composition ~~comprises~~consists of:

- i. between about 4.5 g/l and about 5.5 g/l of monobasic potassium phosphate;
- ii. between about 0.5 g/l and about 1.5 g/l of ammonium chloride;
- iii. between about 0.5 g/l and about 1.5 g/l of heptahydrate magnesium sulfate;
- iv. between about 30.0 g/l and about 50.0 g/l of D(+) saccharose; and

v. water; and

optionally includes acid and/or base for pH adjustment.

13. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 1, wherein the culture medium is for culturing at least one of *Bacillus subtilis*, *Candida albicans*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces uvarum*, *Rhodotorula rubra*, *Penicillium camembertii*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Trychophyton ajelloi* and *Geotrichum candidum*.

14. (Currently Amended) The culture medium of claim 1 consisting essentially of: between about 4.5 g/l and about 5.5 g/l of monobasic potassium phosphate; between about 0.5 g/l and about 1.5 g/l of ammonium chloride; between about 0.5 g/l and about 1.5 g/l of heptahydrate magnesium sulfate; between about 30.0 g/l and about 50.0 g/l of saccharose; and water; which optionally includes acid and/or base for pH adjustment.

15. (Currently Amended) The culture medium of claim [[15]]14, wherein the pH of the medium is between 4.5 and 5.5.

16. (Previously Presented) The culture medium of claim 15, wherein the culture medium is suitable for the growth of fungi and/or yeast.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting fungi and yeast comprising:  
culturing a sample on the a culture medium consisting essentially of:  
monobasic potassium phosphate;  
ammonium chloride;  
heptahydrate magnesium sulfate;  
saccharose; and  
water; and  
optionally includes acid and/or base for pH adjustment; and  
detecting colonies of fungi and/or yeast.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the culture medium consists essentially of:

between about 4.5 g/l and about 5.5 g/l of monobasic potassium phosphate;  
between about 0.5 g/l and about 1.5 g/l of ammonium chloride;  
between about 0.5 g/l and about 1.5 g/l of heptahydrate magnesium sulfate;  
between about 30.0 g/l and about 50.0 g/l of saccharose; and  
water; and  
wherein the pH of the medium is between 4.5 and 5.5.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the colonies of fungi and/or yeast are detected by counting the colonies.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the sample is from a food industry installation.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the sample is from a production line of cola beverages.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the sample is cultured on a culture plate containing the culture medium.

23. (Previously Presented) The culture medium of claim 1, wherein the culture medium is contained in a culture plate.

24. (Currently Amended) The culture medium of claim [[1]]23, whercin the culture plate comprises an absorbent surface.